



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

March 27, 2014

Matthew Bailey
Watermark Engineering
2631 Ginger Woods Parkway
Aurora, IL 60502

RE: Ozinga Materials - Channahon Mine
IDNR Project #1409824
County: Will

Dear Mr. Bailey:

This letter concerns the consultation for construction at Channahon Mine, in Will County, Township 49 North, Range 9 East, Sections 16 and 17. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The project will construct a short haul road at the site's main entrance and a screening berm along the north side of the property. The Department has completed its review of the project and concluded that the State-endangered Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) could be adversely affected. The state-listed turtles have been recorded in the vicinity and are known to nest at mining sites. They hibernate in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, generally emerge in the spring with nesting occurring in June.

To minimize potential adverse effects during construction, the Department recommends the following protective measures:

- Educate personnel working on site about Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's at a central location.
- Install exclusionary fencing (making sure it is dug into the ground) to prevent turtles from entering the construction areas.
- Conduct daily inspections for transiting turtles. If a Blanding's Turtle is encountered, crews should stop work and allow the turtle to move out of the way or call IDNR at 630-553-1372.

To determine if turtles are using the area during mining operations, we recommend that a biological survey be conducted. A trapping survey in surrounding wetlands should be

conducted in April and/or an on-site nesting survey should be conducted from late May to the end of June.

If a survey documents that turtles are using the site, there is the potential for a prohibited take of the animals, which is a violation of the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act*. If turtles are found, the Department recommends that you consider applying for Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for Blanding's Turtle in accordance with *17 Ill Adm. Code Part 1080* (copy attached). Communication concerning the ITA application should be directed to Jenny Skufca, Office of Resource Conservation, 217-557-8243 or Jenny.Skufca@illinois.gov.

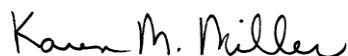
Consultation under *17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075* is completed. In accordance with *17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h)*, please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,



Karen Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Phone (217) 785-5500
karen.m.miller@illinois.gov